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Ryoji Okuda

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## OBITUARY: DR OKIFUMI KOMESU

*Ryoji Okuda*

**D**r Okifumi Komesu, 84, passed away on Thursday, 17 December 2015. He was a member of the International Yeats Society and the Yeats Society of Japan. Born in Nakagusuku, Okinawa, Japan, Dr Komatsu was a lifelong area resident. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, in 1955; a Master of Arts at Michigan State University in 1960; and a Doctor of Philosophy at Michigan State University in 1968. He spent most of his life in service as a professor at the University of Ryukyu, Okinawa; in 1963–1964 he was an instructor; in 1965–1968 an assistant professor; in 1969–1995 a professor; and since 1996, an honoured professor emeritus. He published *The Double Perspective of Yeats's Aesthetic* in 1984, in which he asserted that the peculiar nature of Yeatsian polarity exists in a complementary relationship, that is, as one of the poet's aesthetic principles. He edited *Irish Writers and Politics* in 1990 that deals with past and present Irish writers including Yeats, Lady Gregory, Joyce and Shaw, and also Northern Irish poets and playwrights. He edited the *Progressive English-Japanese Dictionary* in 1980 and the *Random House English-Japanese Dictionary* in 1993. His insight into Yeats was excellent and his contributions to the study of Yeats's body of work made him a scholar respected by many Yeats scholars not only in Japan but around the world. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to all the bereaved members of the family and to let them know we shall always carry his memory in our hearts.